

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116
Serial No. 10/500,287
Attorney Docket No. 042424

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2. Accordingly, claim 2 has been canceled.

It is submitted that the amendment does not raise any new issues. Accordingly, entry and consideration of the amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 5-9 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 is the only independent claims.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 5-6 and 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over US 6,867,834 to Coates et al. (“Coates”) in view of US 6,888,598 to Kim et al. (“Kim”) and US 6,773,766 to Meyer et al. (“Meyer”).

Further, claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Coates, Kim, and Meyer, further in view of US 6,342,934 to Kameyama et al. (“Kameyama”).

Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating therein the subject matter of claim 2, which is not included in the rejections. Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejections are moot as it applies to claim 1, as well as claims 5-9 which depend on claim 1.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejections should be withdrawn.

In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

If there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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If this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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